Annex "A," Subparagraph 1g

Sociological Background

FAMILY

•594 In modern Finland the family has steadily been losing the position it once had in the so-

591 ciety. A real clan system has never been known among the Finns, but among the Karelians there have been large families, married sons staying with their wives and children in the parents' household. The usual custom, still observed among the Finnish farmers, has been for the owners to retire into a separate building on the farm after turning over the estate to their son. In recent years the housing shortage caused by the war has compelled many young couples, especially in the cities, to stay with the wife's or the husband's parents for a

428 he may pay the others out of his own share and become the sole proprietor.

593 In rural areas the parents are still generally
367 treated with esteem, as revealed, e. g., in the use of the formal "you" in addressing them; however, in the cities and among the educated classes it has long since been replaced by the familiar "thou." A strong love of home and ancestral esteem also are characteristic of the peasant population. Many a farmer can show with pride a framed statement on his wall indicating that his farm was handed down in the same family for four hundred years--perhaps even for a longer time--but there exist no documents for the earlier periods.

367 In the cities, again especially among the ed-
514 ucated classes, family cohesion has greatly suffered in the many cases in which the

369
594
[562]

parents work outside the home. The percentage ofprofessional women is extraordinarily high in Finland, caused both by a feeling of independence and of economic need. Moreover, many of these workingmotherscrowd their free tiem attending a multitude of meetings and other activities, and the children are left in the care of servants until they are old enough to find their company outside the home. For this reason the children tend to be free and indpendent and learn to make decisions for themselves at an early age. As a whole, however, the educational code is somewhat stricter than, e.g., in America, and the authority of older people is more rigidly adhered to. In towns and in the country discipline in the schools usually is easily maintained; in the cities difficulties may arise.

855
594